

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8010

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PASS DALE GOOD S/IL AND DAN GOOTT (AMERICANA HOTEL,
MIAMI)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OTRA, UK

SUBJECT: TUC DELEGATION TO AFL-CIO COUNCIL MEETING

REF: LONDON 1354

1. TUC GENERAL SECRETARY LEN MURRAY HAS INFORMED US
THAT - BARRING A MAJOR AND IMMEDIATE BREAKTHROUGH
TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF THE COAL STRIKE, WHICH HE DOES
NOT NOW FORESEE - HE PLANS TO LEAVE FOR THE U.S. ON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 VIA BOAC FLIGHT BA 661 AT 1:00 PM,
WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TUC DELEGATION TO THE
AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN FLORIDA (REFTEL).

2. BOTH MURRAY AND JONES, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE TO RETURN
TO THE UK ON TUESDAY NIGHT OR WEDNESDAY TO DEAL WITH
PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF THE CURRENT INTERNAL SITUATION.
BOTTINI WILL RETURN ON WEDNESDAY, AND HARGREAVES EXPECTS
TO DEPART MIAMI ON THURSDAY IN ORDER TO KEEP A SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENT AT THE WHARTON SCHOOL THE SAME DAY (HE WILL
BE SPEAKING TO THE EUROPEAN ELEMENTS).

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3. MURRAY SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY, WHOM HE VERY MUCH ADMIRES, AS WELL AS OTHER LEADERS OF THE AFL-CIO. HE HOPES THE MEETING WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TUC DELEGATION TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT INDUSTRIAL CRISIS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND TO HEAR FROM THE AFL-CIO ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE U.S.

4. MURRAY SAID HE RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH BETWEEN THE AFL-CIO AND THE TUC IN CERTAIN AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO WESTERN EUROPE, BUT HE IS PREPARED TO EXPRESS HIMSELF FRANKLY AND DIRECTLY TO MEANY ON THESE ISSUES. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE HE DID NOT SHARE SOME OF THE VIEWS HELD BY JACK JONES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, HE WAS MANDATED TO FOLLOW THE POLICY SET FORTH BY THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS QUITE NEW TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS -- AND NEW TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY POSITION FOR THAT MATTER -- AND THAT HE DOES NOT HOLD THE SAME TOWERING PREEMINENCE WITHIN HIS OWN EXECUTIVE WHICH MEANY HAS LONG HELD WITHIN THE AFL-CIO. MURRAY ADDED -- IN AN ALLUSION TO THE TUC'S CURRENT 'EAST-WEST' POLICIES -- THAT CHANGE WAS POSSIBLE WITHIN AUTHORITARIAN STATES AND THEIR TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS -- WHETHER IN SOUTH AFRICA OR IN THE SOVIET UNION AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

5. MURRAY SAID THAT HIS DECISION TO GO TO THE U.S. DESPITE THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN BRITAIN IS A REFLECTION OF HIS EARNEST DESIRE TO ESTABLISH, IN HIS NEW ROLE AS GENERAL SECRETARY, A STRAIGHTFORWARD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AFL-CIO. AS HE PUT IT, "I AM GOING TO THE U.S. (TO SEE THE AFL-CIO) BECAUSE I VERY MUCH WANT TO."

ANNENBERG

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED MIAMI.

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